

Application No. 10/007,475
Amendment dated May 12, 2004
Reply to Final Office Action dated March 12, 2004

R E M A R K S

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action mailed March 12, 2004. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the forgoing comments.

Claims 24-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen (DE 44 45 204 A1) in view of Krizman (USPN 5,829,316). Applicants traverse this rejection, to the extent that it is maintained.

Independent claims 24 and 28 have been amended to recite that each of the handlebar risers include a riser body having a having a side surface, and that the vehicle connecting structure of each of the risers includes a projection of unitary construction with or permanently attached to the riser body, the projections extending from the side surface of each of the riser bodies. Neither Chen, nor Krizman, alone or in combination, teach or suggest first and second risers, each including a body having a side surface, and a projection of unitary construction with or permanently attached to the riser body extending from the side surface of each of the riser bodies that provides the vehicle connecting structure. As such, applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 24 and 28 are now in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 25-27 depend from independent claim 24, and add further distinctive elements, and likewise are patentable over Chen and Krizman, Jr.

Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for the time taken to discuss these amendments on the telephone with the Applicants' representative on May 12, 2004. During the course of the discussions, the Examiner preliminarily agreed that these claims, if so amended, would be distinguishable over the cited art.

Applicants still do not agree that the combination of Chen with Krizman proper, as set forth in the previous Amendment. In addition, with regard to claim 28, Applicants do not agree that it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to include a riser body having a length that is greater than the diameter of the handlebar, and the vehicle connecting structure disposed at the lower portion of the riser body and spaced from the upper handlebar connecting structure by a distance greater than the diameter of the handlebar. However, in the

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interest of furthering prosecution, Applicants have amended independent claims 24 and 28, as indicated above, such that the claimed invention is patentable over the cited art.

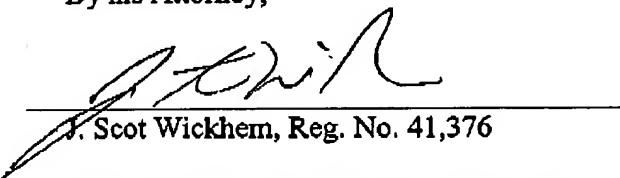
In light of the comments contained hereinabove, reconsideration is respectfully requested, and a notice of an allowance in due course is requested. If a teleconference is deemed beneficial, the undersigned attorney may be contacted at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By his Attorney,

Date: May 12, 2004



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